### IT GREW EPIDEMIC

The Curious Mania Which Swept Over a Texas Town.

Same People Organized to Subdue the Craze Created by a Demented Preacher Who Did Strange Things.

"You will doubtless feel incredulous when I tell you that a Texas town was once offlicted with an epidemic of inaddressed to a reporter for the Dallas A. News. "It was early in the 70s, in the beautiful little town of Point Isabel. I resided there at the time, and I know, of course, whereof I speak Among the four hundred inhabitants of the 'Point,' as we used to call it, was a Montenegran named Speero, who went insane over religion. Speero insisted that the second coming of Christ was at hand, and that the event would be heralded by the appearance at daybreak of a white deer on a little bill near the cemetery. Speers, like so many of his countrymen, was a jack at all trades. He could shoe a horse, build a boat, make a cuit of clothing. cobble old shoes and shingle a roof. Thus useful his humble residence became a sort of rendezvous, and when it became known that he claimed prophesic powers all his acquaintances flocked around him. He told about 'Ac as and the bees,' and several other parables which, though not related in the Bible, enter strongly into the religious tradition of the people of easton lands. Several of the more con-stant visitors who first pitied the condition of Speero gradually began to believe that he was inspired and finally embraced his doctrines, some of which were not strictly orthodox. An Italian. who was a prosperous grocer, closed up his store, paid all his debts and insisted on giving all his goods to the poor. A Spaniard named Camba lost his head and commenced preaching hurricane J. sermons from the housetops. Others became similarly afflicted and twenty or thirty began to show premonitions of the prevailing epidemic, which consisted in looking for the white deer. walking through the streets in a gloomy mood and flying into a passion when anybody denied or doubted that Speero was a prophet. In time the people of sound mind became alarmed and forbade their children to approach "A climax was finally reached. OTTO G. ECKSTEIN, Speero's sanctuary.

Speero had a vision that he must take his six-months old baby and baptize it in the river Jordan. Mrs. Speero, whose mind had not given way, objected. Speero insisted in proceeding secording to revelation and Mrs. Speero yelled and alarmed the neighborhood. Speero and one of his insane companions slipped the baby into an oyster skiff, pushed the frail eraft out into the Laguna Marde, set their leg-ofmutton sail and squared away for the Holy Land. A party of rescuers was made up. They started in a lighter belonging to the Rio Grande Rallway company and overhauled Specro's boat as it was approaching the bar on which the sea was breaking. They overpow ered Speero and his companion and brought them and the baby back to Point Isabel, where Mrs. Speero was found walking up and down the beach tearing her hair and crying about her The same men of Point Isabel now took immediate action. They repaired to the custom house and organized. An old politician who wrote obituary notices when prominent citidesigned to end the craze. Then the meeting adjourned to round up the insame and corral them in a hox car. Speero was the first run in and then the trouble commenced. Camisa, on learning that the prophet was a prisoner, ermed himself with a butcher imife and started to carve the crowd, but Constable John Whittaker succeeded in accesting, disarming and binding him. There was no trouble in managing the others. Several of the unfortunates were sent to a lunatic asylum, but Cameron county was hot with Speers for being the originator of all the trouble, and he was sentenced to the nenitentlary at Huntsville on the charge of assault with intent to murder, to which he pleaded that he was a prophet sent to unrounce the second coming of his Master. The attention of the Australian consul having been called to his case, that authority investigated it, had Speero released and A. rent home to Montenegro. The action of the citizens broke the backbone of the epidenic and Point Isabel has since been free from afflictions of every sort save an occasional gulf hurricane.

A Crew of Deaf Hutes.

The schooner Mary and Belle is probably the only vessel in the world that is manned by a crew that is deaf and dumb. The schooner is not a large vessel by any means, being about seventy feet long, but she is a neatlooking craft and her decks, spars and rigging look in much better condition than those of many other vessels whose crows can speak the language to the queen's taste. The captain of this couft, George Bennett, is a most intelligent-looking man, apparently fifty years old. He is alive to all that is going on around him and seems to enjoy his silent and speechless life. The "grew," Charlie Majone, is also deaf and dumb. These two deaf and dumb men manage the stanch schooner Mary and Belle admirably. They are always on the lookout and sleep with one eye open, as good sailers elways should. When they are caught In heavy squalls the captain cannot shrick out his commands but simply attracts his men's attention by a whistle and then tells him what he wants by signs, while he sticks to the wheel.

A Powerful Polacu.

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The Reason, Perlupa. "I wonder," mused the fluffy girl, seconder why June is the month sup-tosed to be the best suited for wellposed to be the best suited for wed-

"Perhaps," ventured the sharp-nosed giel, "perhaps it is so arranged in order that the young couple shall not have the honeymoon spolled by any rows as to wno shall get up on cold mornings to light the fire."--Indianapolis Jour-

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